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On the Cover: Myles Garrett made program history when he became the first overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft. Garrett flexes at the NFL Pro Day hosted by Texas A&M.

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Howdy Ags!

The last two months have been an exciting time in AggieLand! The men's track team won their first indoor national championship under the leadership of Coach Henry, adding even more hardware to the fullest trophy case on campus. Our equestrian team brought home their 12th national championship title in dominating fashion. I want to congratulate both programs on achieving the ultimate goal.

Our football team wrapped up spring drills and now they are preparing for summer full of workouts to get stronger and prepare for the fall. We witnessed a lot of positive things in the spring game, and now the team will welcome the arrival of 14 talented freshmen signees to the program.

Our softball team has had an amazing spring and are on track to finish strong and lock down a top 8 national seed. The construction is underway for the new state-of-the-art softball facility that the Aggies will move to in 2018.

Aggie Baseball had a slow start in conference play but they have turned it around and are now fighting to host a regional. The team is playing their best baseball and watching this team grow up before our eyes has been a lot of fun.

Tennis and golf teams are all getting ready for post-season competition and we wish them well!

The 2017 NFL Draft was historic for Texas A&M as Myles Garrett became the first number one pick in the history of the program. Four other Aggies were also drafted and five more signed free agent contracts. We wish all ten players good luck as they compete for a job in the league.

Finally I want to congratulate our copy editor Chelsea O'Neal on her graduation from Texas A&M! I also want to congratulate our creative director Sarah Pyatt who just earned her Masters of Art Degree in Graphic Design. I'm blessed to have you ladies as part of the AggieLand Illustrated family. I'm so proud of both of you!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



Chelsea O'Neal



Sarah Pyatt

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you're out...

Baseball is a game of inches, a lesson this Volunteer found out the hard way. Aggie catcher Cole Bedford makes a perfect throw to third baseman George Janca who applies the tag and sends him to the dugout. The Aggies won the game and the series against Tennessee. Photo by Rob Havens '88.





saw'em off...

Following the Maroon & White game, #11 Larry Pryor, #3 Christian Kirk, #89 Calvin Cline and #10 Jake Hubenak join arm in arm to saw varsity's horns off. The Aggies played a more traditional style game this year. Christian Kirk and Armani Watts drafted teams and coaches. The Maroon squad came out on top 23-7.
Photo by Rob Havens '88.







snapshot

national champs...

The Aggies won their first ever indoor national team title in dramatic fashion. On the final event of the day, the 4x400 relay team came from behind to win the race, propelling the team to a half point edge in the team standings. For coach Pat Henry, it was his ninth national title with Texas A&M and his 36th overall in his career on the Division I level. Photo by Aggie Athletics.





CHAMPIONS

CP





reining in another natty...

The Aggies Equestrian Team dominated their competition to win their 12th national championship. The Ags compiled a 54-8 point total over the course of the competition becoming the first team in the current format to win four meets to win the championship. Texas A&M defeated conference foe Georgia 11-5 to clinch the win and bring home the title.

Photo by Aggie Athletics.



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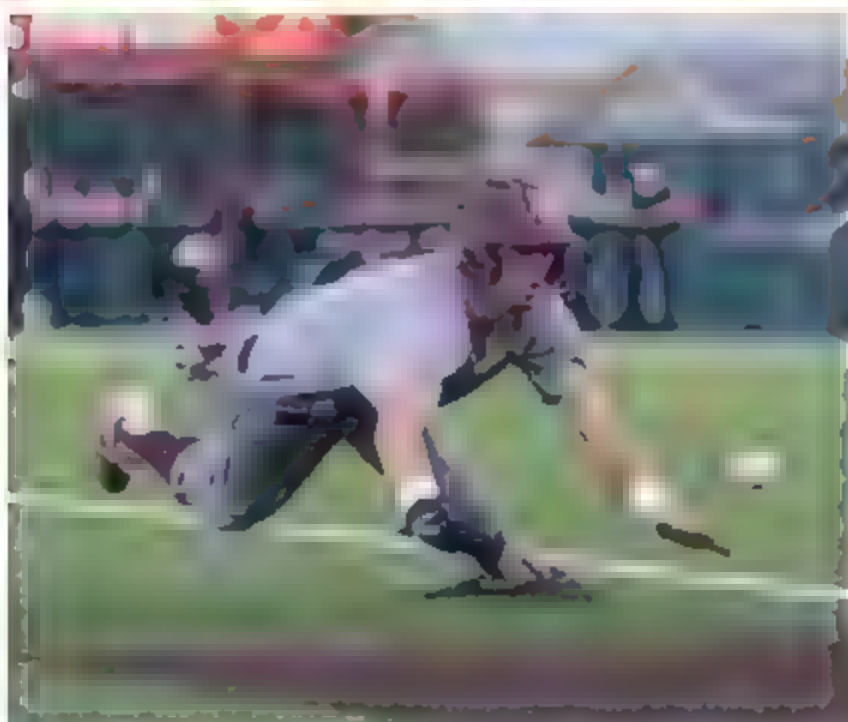
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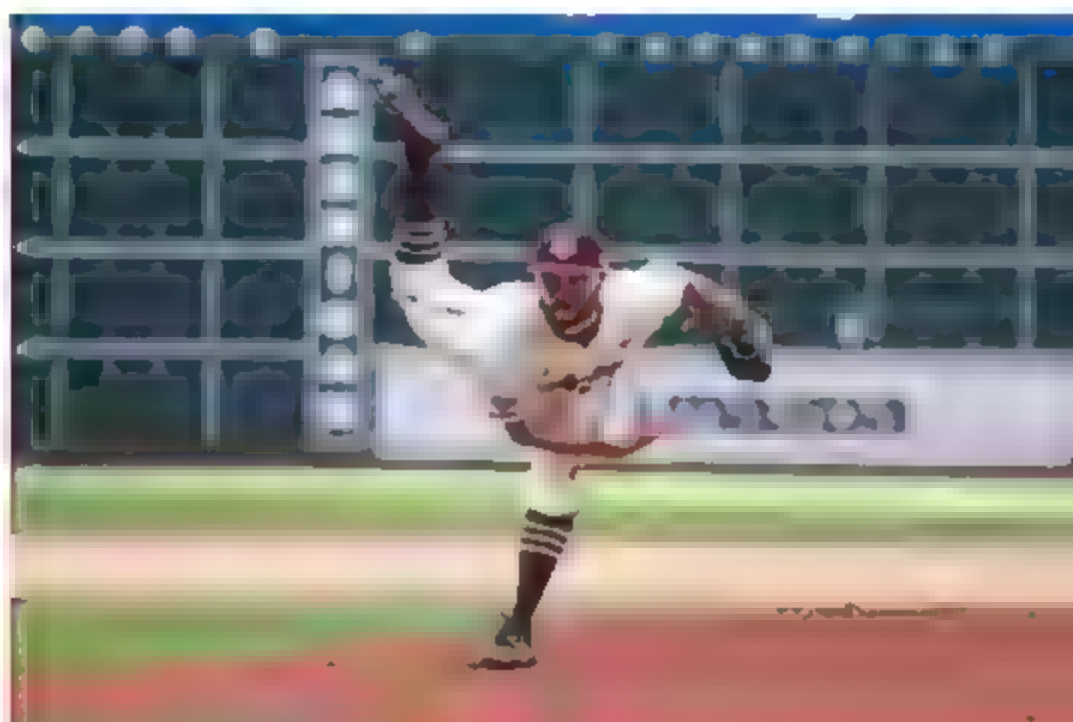
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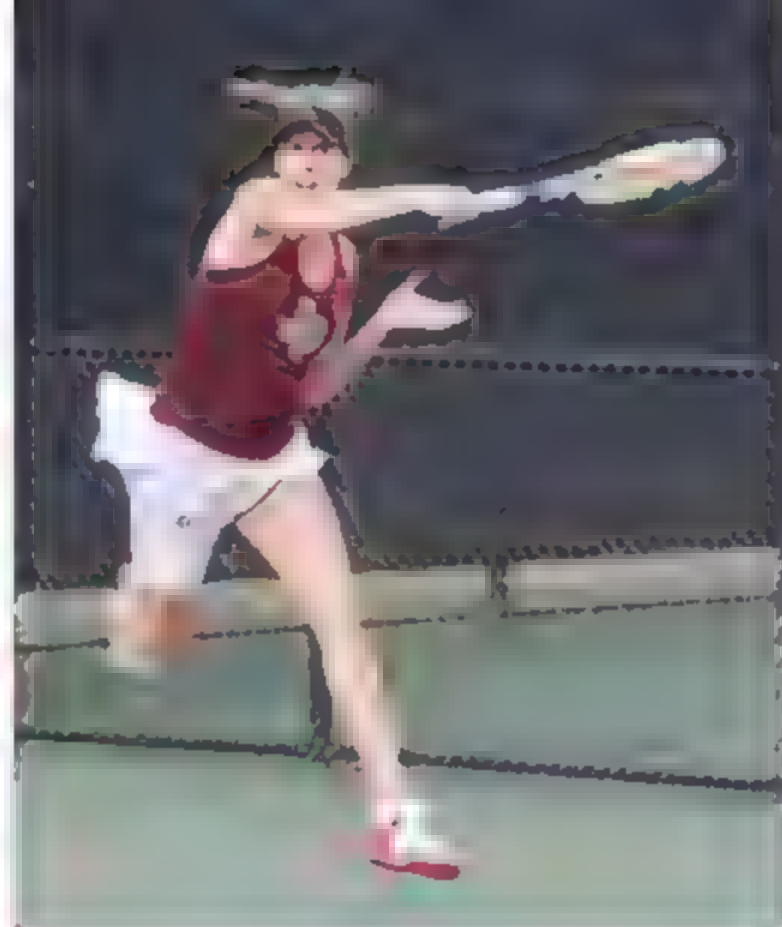


[softball] Aggie softball has had an incredible year and earned a number nine national seed. Riley Sartain leads the team at the plate with a .354 batting average and 11 homeruns. Coach Evans has developed a three-headed monster in the circle as Samantha Show, Trinity Harrington and Lexi Smith have posted a combined 40-7 record. This team has proven that it can beat anyone in the country. The ultimate goal is to win it all and this club has the pieces to do it.



[baseball] Our baseball team might have had a slow start during SEC play but they were able to adjust and put themselves in the mix for the best in the conference. After falling out of the top 25 it looked like this might be a rebuilding year. But Childress worked his magic once again and every part of their game is coming around. On the mound, Brigham Hill, Corbin Martin and Stephen Kolek have all locked down starting roles on the weekend. Kaylon Chafin has been amazing out of the bullpen and Mitchell Kilkenny has become the team's closer. The bats have come alive, and one of the nations best, Braden Shewnake, leads the team at the plate. If they can continue to play like they did in April, then the sky is the limit for this team.





[men's tennis] The No. 10 Aggie Men's Tennis team clinched an SEC regular season championship title in the final match of the season against No. 11 Georgia. The team was 18-5 with an 11-1 SEC record. The team won the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament and now will face #5 UCLA in the third round. Arthur Rinderknech was named First Team All-SEC for the second straight year. Jordi Arconada and Valentin Vacherot were named to ALL-SEC Second Team. Hady Habib and Vacherot were also recognized as members of the All-Freshman squad.

[women's tennis] Texas A&M Women's Tennis team finished the regular season with a five match winning streak. The final match was a historic victory over No. 2 Georgia in Athens. It was the first victory in 13 tries against the Bulldogs. It was also the highest ranked win in program history. The team beat Louisiana-Monroe in the first round of the NCAA Tourney and then defeated Baylor on their home court to earn a shot at number one Florida in the third round.

[women's golf] The women's golf team had a number of top five finishes this spring including a team victory at the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational in Hawaii. The team ran away from the field posting an impressive 5-under par for a 15 stroke win over second place Oklahoma State. The team finished ninth in the NCAA tournament at Ohio State University Golf Club Scarlet Course.

[men's golf] The men's golf team battled all the way to the finals of the SEC Men's Golf Championship before coming up just short to No. 3 Vanderbilt. The match came down to a sudden death playoff that went five extra holes. On May 2nd, junior Cameron Champ and sophomore Chandler Phillips were named semifinalists for the 2017 Division I Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year Award presented by Barbasol. The team finished sixth in the NCAA tourney just one spot away from advancing.



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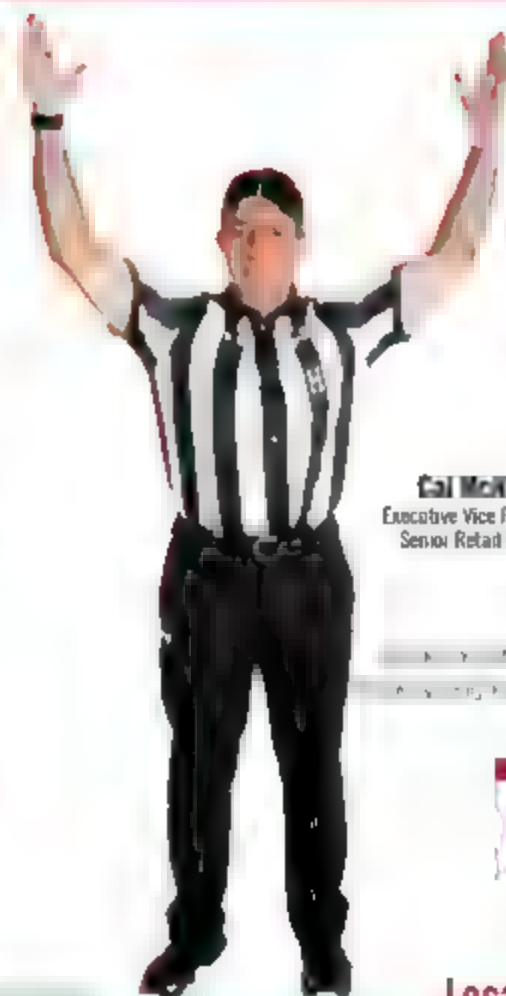
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"BIG THINGS ARE COMING"

MYLES GARRETT IS NUMBER ONE PICK

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Roger Goodell stepped up to the microphone and said, "With the first pick of the 2017 NFL Draft, the Cleveland Browns select Myles Garrett, defensive end, Texas A&M!" It was the first time in program history that an Aggie was taken with the first overall pick. Myles was surrounded by family and friends in Arlington, Texas when he got the call and the room erupted as the announcement was made.

Myles broke out with a huge smile and hugged his dad and mom before stripping off his Adidas top to reveal a "Heart of Rock N Roll, Cleveland" t-shirt underneath. There were tears and smiles as he donned a Cleveland Browns hat and held up a number one Browns jersey with his name on it.

For Aggie fans, the previous 24-hours had created quite a bit of anxiety. Rumors

were spreading that the Browns were considering passing on the consensus best pick to go after North Carolina quarterback Mitchell Trubisky. In fact, the two highest respected draft experts, Mel Kiper Jr. and Todd McShay, both changed their Mock Drafts hours before to predict the Trubisky selection.

Garrett was relieved to get the call from Browns' legend Jim Brown right before the announcement was made. Myles' decision to skip the pomp and circumstance of the main event in Philadelphia and to instead celebrate with family and friends gives you an idea of how different he is.

Myles arrived in College Station three years ago as one of the nation's best prospects. His chiseled frame and unbelievable strength turned heads from the moment he stepped on campus. His

mild-mannered personality and big smile were deceiving as he showed what an aggressive and impressive defensive end that he was.

Myles made an impact on the Aggie program from the day he ran onto the practice field. He led by example and made the players around him better as they watched him compete to be the best. His goal was to be the best player in college football, and he achieved that when his name was the first called on draft night.

Coach Terry Price and Coach John Chavis presented Garrett with a framed Aggie jersey before the announcement was made. Coach Sumlin was in Philadelphia and expressed his excitement for Myles. "He is very deserving and worthy of this honor, and has earned being the first Aggie to ever be drafted No. 1 overall



in the NFL draft," Sumlin said. "He is an outstanding football player, a terrific teammate and an even better person. We are very proud of Myles."

After a stellar college career, Garrett's new goal is to be the best player in the NFL. When asked who he was looking forward to facing first he replied, "Ben

Roethlisberger. He's a Super Bowl winner and I've always heard he's hard to bring down, so I'm going to come for him first." Based on what he's done in the past, Big Ben better keep his head on a swivel.

Randy Moss asked Myles if he had a message for the fans of Cleveland and

he replied, "Big things are coming! I have all of them behind me (referring to family and friends) and I can't let them down, and I won't let them down!" The 12th Man is behind you Myles, and we know you won't let us down!



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MYLES GARRETT, DE - CLEVELAND BROWNS



ROUND 2, PICK #18 (#50 OVERALL)

JUSTIN EVANS, S - TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



ROUND 3, PICK #13 (#77 OVERALL)

DAESHON HALL, DE - CAROLINA PANTHERS



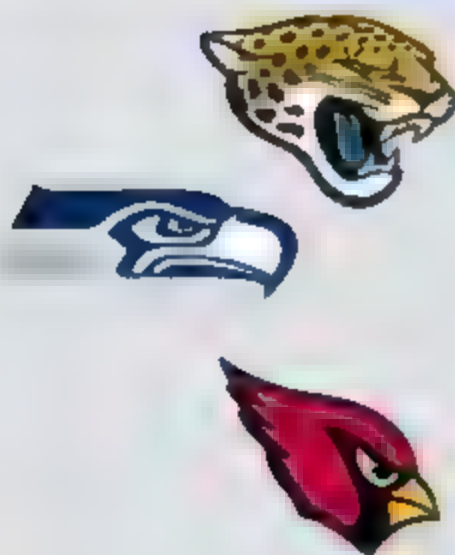
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ROUND 5, PICK #15 (#159 OVERALL)

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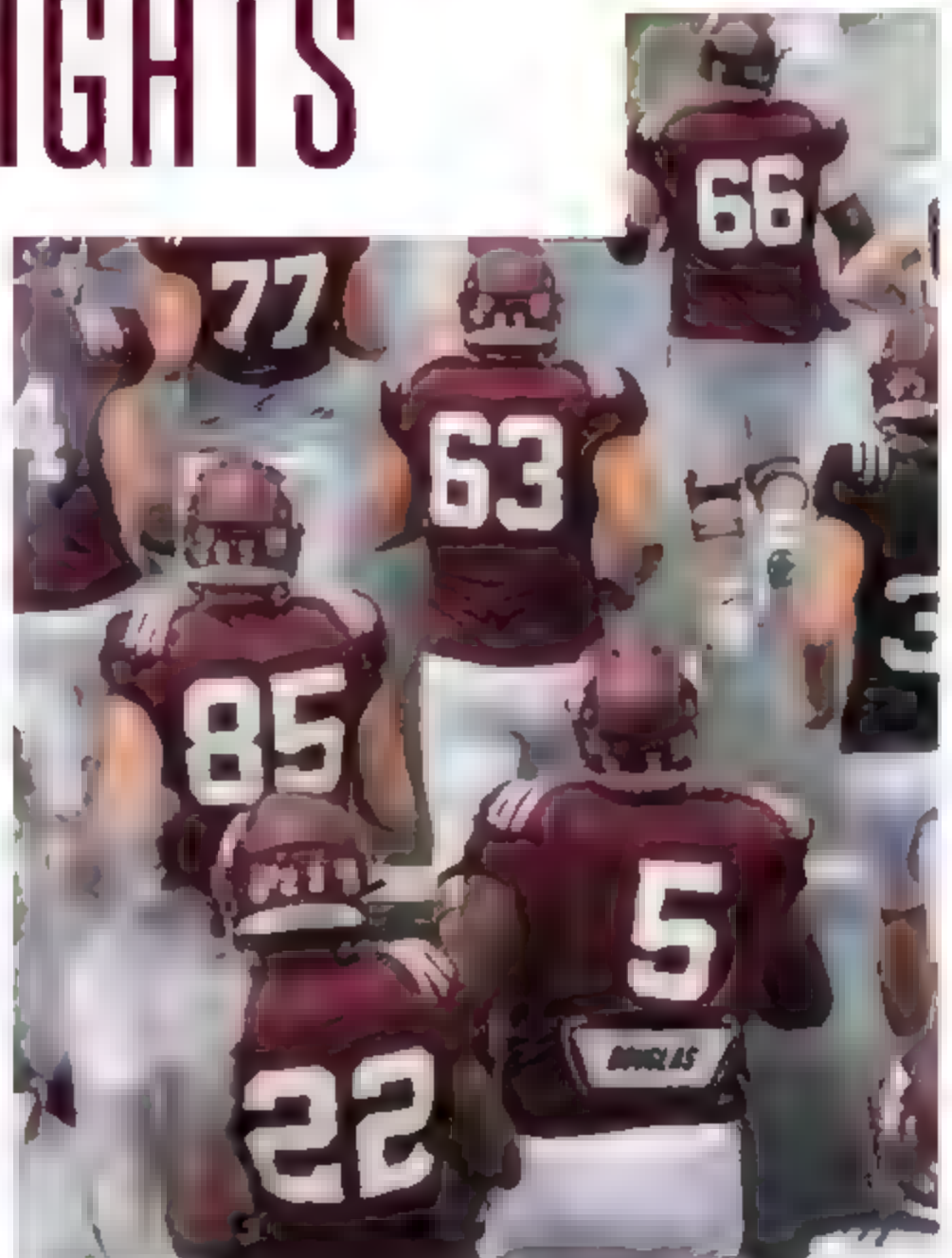
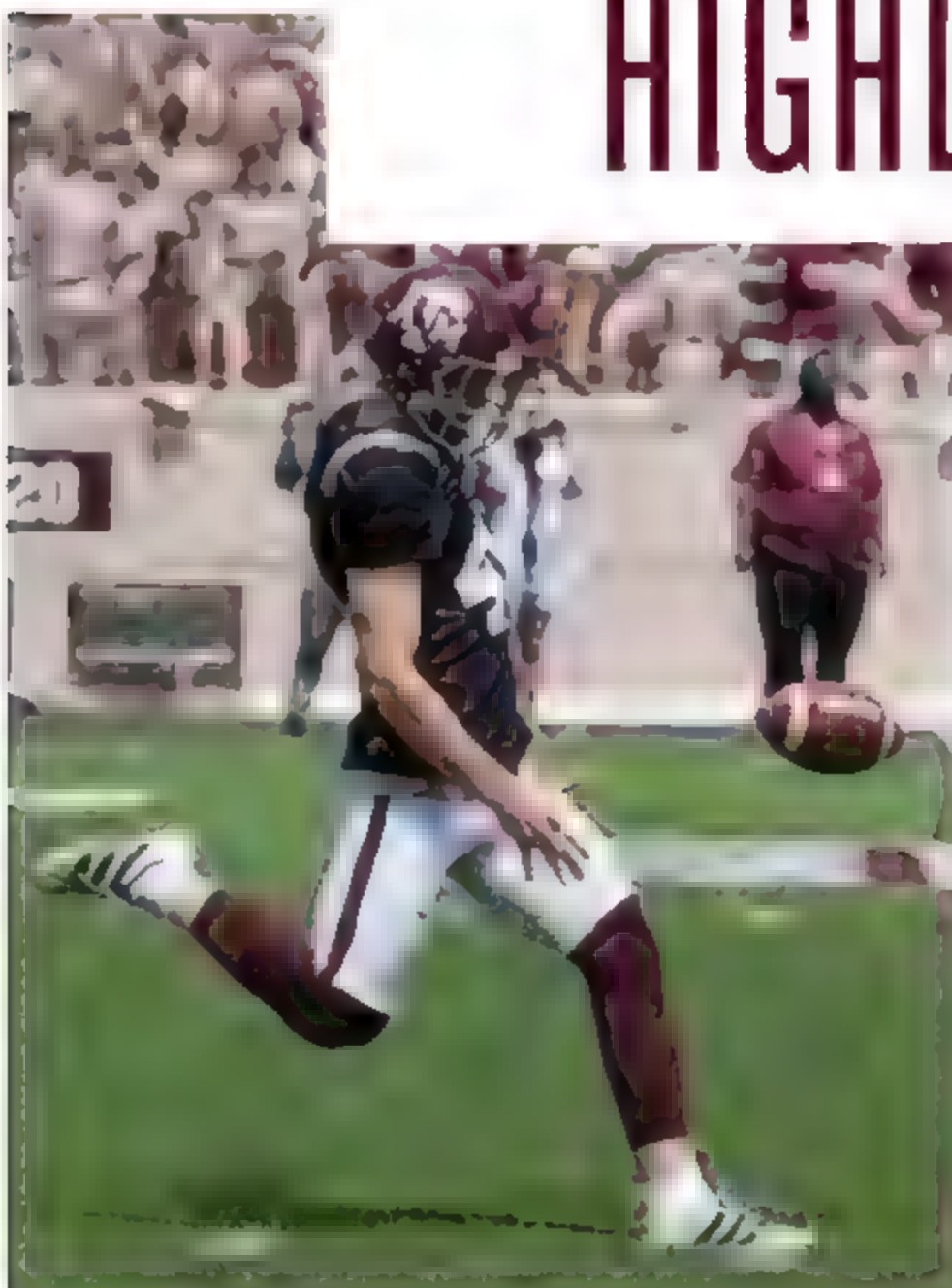
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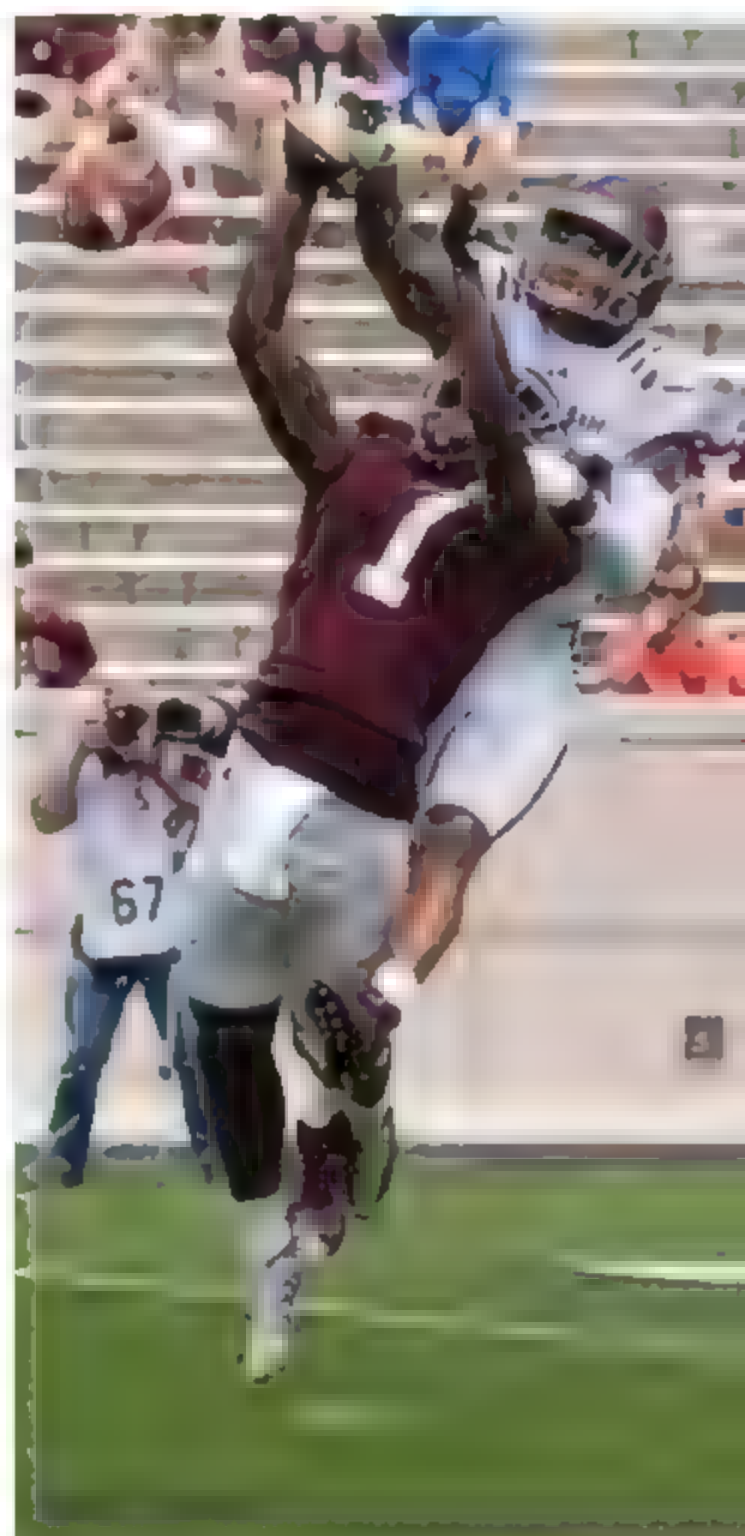
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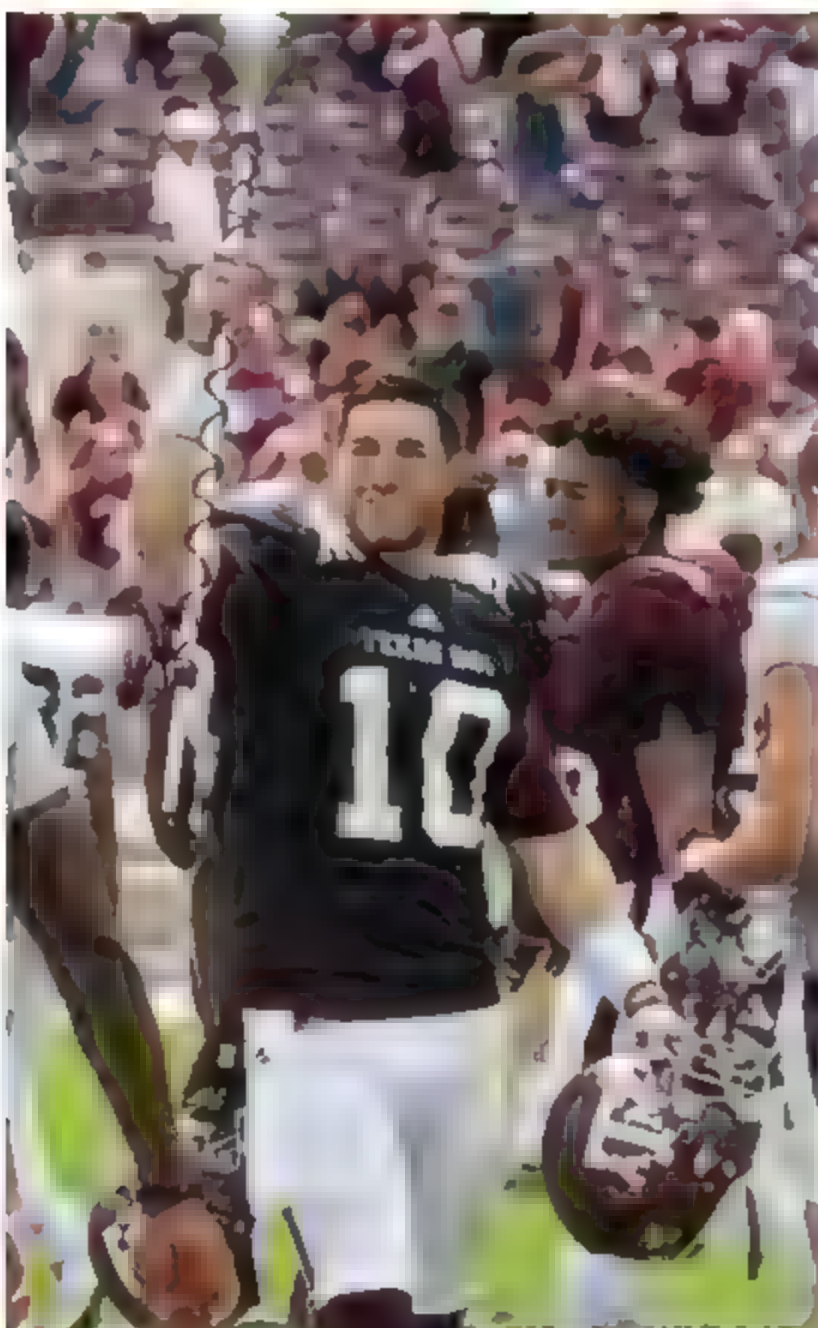
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MAROON & WHITE HIGHLIGHTS









FIVE QUESTIONS

THE AGGIES MUST ANSWER BY SEPTEMBER 3RD

1. WHO WILL BE QB1?

Trevor Knight gave Coach Sumlin an easy answer to this question last year as the talented transfer came in, won the job and was named the starter at the end of spring drills. This year Jake Hubenak, Nick Starkel and Keilen Mond look to be the three front-runners to earn the position. Jake brings the maturity and experience of a seasoned quarterback. Starkel has had a full year to learn the system and has a big arm and the ability to throw touch passes. Kellen Mond comes in as the nation's premier dual-threat quarterback, but has only been on campus since January. These young men have the summer and fall camp to break away from the pack and convince Summy they should be "The Man."

2. WHO SHOULD BE THE STARTERS ON THE OFFENSIVE LINE AND WHERE SHOULD THEY PLAY?

It looks like Jim Turner will be looking for the five best guys to answer this one. Erik McCoy moved over a spot to left guard in the spring. Colton Prater, who was limited to non-contact drills during the spring, figures to move to center and Koda Martin is sliding over to left tackle. Turner has to replace Avery Gennessy and Jermaine Eluemunor. Returning players Keaton Sutherland and Connor Lanfear could be the guys, but there are a host of young players competing for the spots. The staff has to choose the best five and hope that they are able to work as a unit. The results could make or break the Aggies' season.





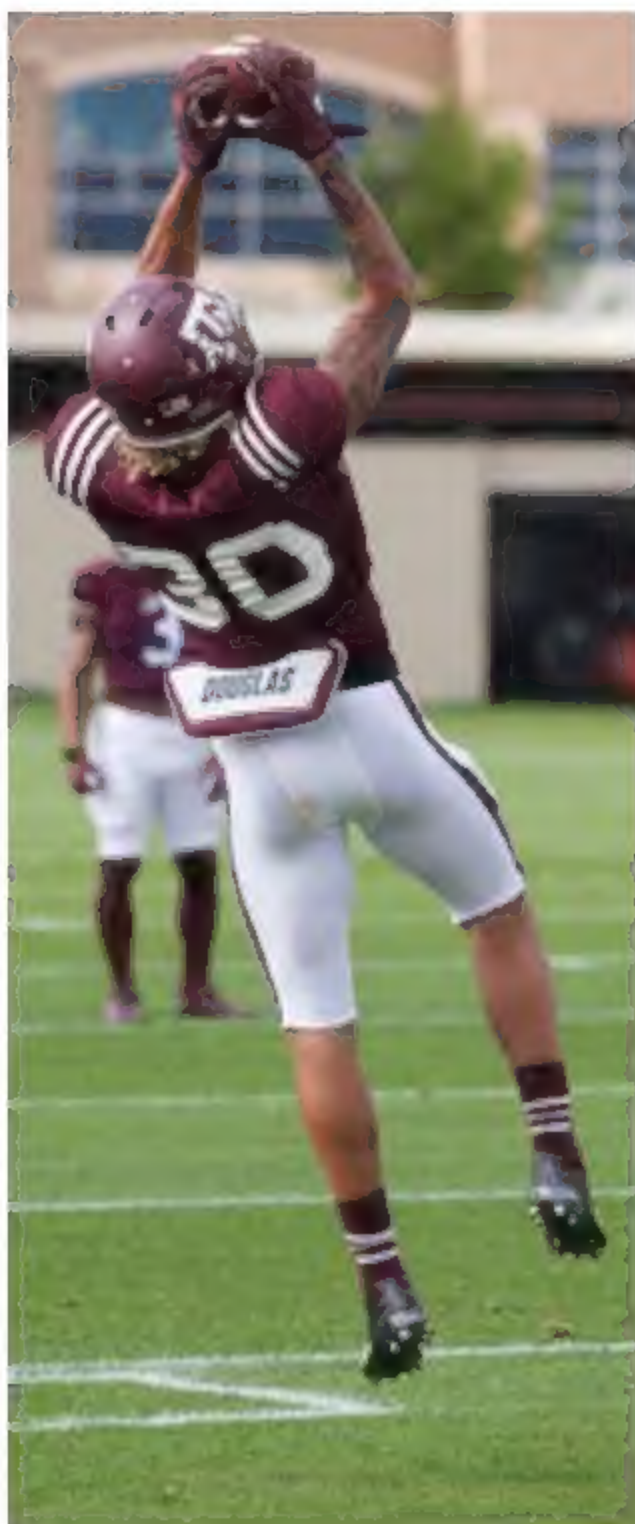
3. HOW DO YOU REPLACE MYLES GARRETT AND DAESHON HALL?

This may be the toughest question for the Aggies to answer. How do you replace the number one pick in the NFL Draft and his counterpart (a third round pick)? The Aggies will look to reserve returners Jarrett Johnson and Quaien Cunningham to fill their shoes. Michael Clemons, a junior college transfer, was picked up late after James Lockhart announced he was leaving the program. The Ags hope true freshman Tyree Johnson from D.C. can come in and make an immediate impact like Garrett did.

4. CAN THE NEW CROP OF WIDE RECEIVERS GROW UP FAST ENOUGH TO HELP THE AGGIE OFFENSE?

The Aggies have a lot of talent at the wide receiver position. Christian Kirk is the only returning starter on the team and Damian Ratley has had limited opportunities to play. Coach Sumlin will rely on Quartney Davis, who lost last year to an injury but is chomping at the bit to play. Talented newcomers Jhamon Ausbon, Roshaud Paul and Hezekiah Jones arrived on campus in January and have been turning heads with their playmaking skills. Aaron Hansford returned to Kyle Field for the Maroon and White game and showed he's ready to play by strolling into the end zone after a 42-yard pass by Kellen Mond. The 12th Man hopes a full summer going through 7 on 7 drills will prepare these men for a difficult schedule.

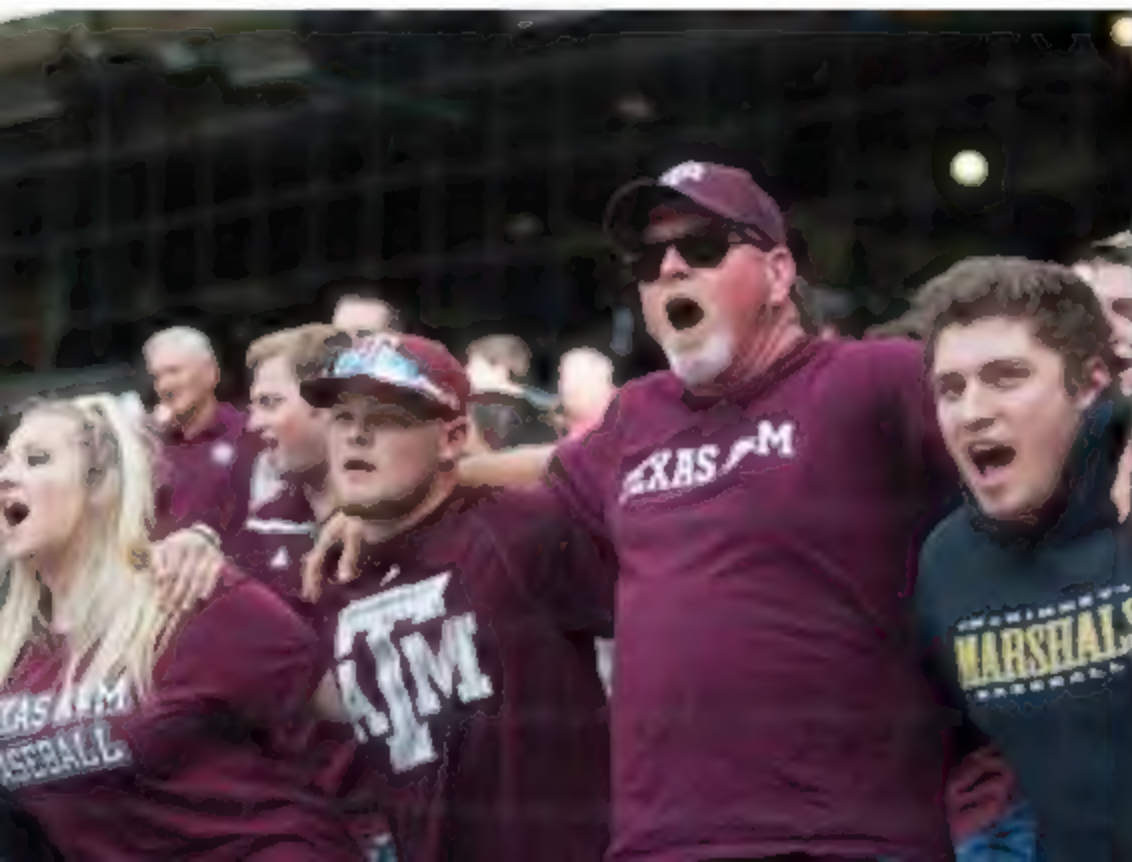
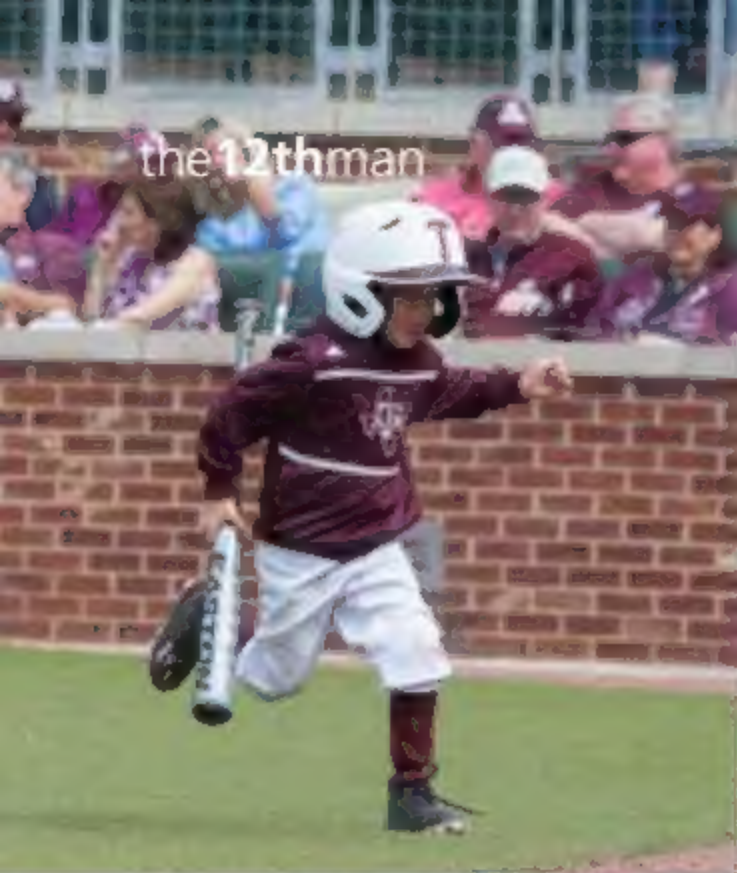




5. HOW DO WE STOP THE RUN?

The Aggie defense will take the field this fall for the third season under the direction of John Chavis. He has changed the look of our defensive line, which now has lots of size and finally some depth. Zaycoven Henderson (305 lbs.), Kingsley Keke (300 lbs.), Daylon Mack (320 lbs.) Justin Madubuike (292lbs.) Reggie Chevis (295 lbs.) and TD Moton (305 lbs.) resemble the great defensive lines that the LSU Tigers were so famous for. This group will be the strength of our defense. The secondary is also loaded with talent, minus the loss of Justin Evans. The answer to this question comes down to our linebackers. The leading tacklers from last year's linebacking squad are Richard Moore, Otaro Alaka, Cullen Gillaspia and Tyrel Dodson. The team also welcomes newcomers to the squad led by the most sought after recruit in the country Anthony Hines III. In order for us to reach our goals this year the linebackers will have to play a big role.







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